

B. REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 6-10 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Method claim 10 has been added and includes subject matter that was present in cancelled apparatus claim 5.

1. Applicants appreciate that the Examiner has accepted their traversal and withdrawn the restriction requirement.

2. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the grounds that the claim is indefinite in view of a misspelling. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the spelling of the term “hematopoietic” as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, because claim 1 was not rejected in view of prior art, it stands allowed.

3. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08-319300 (“JP ‘300”). It is submitted that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 5 and should be withdrawn.

4. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 6-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but that they would be allowable if amended to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All of claims 6-9 depend from claim 1 which stands allowed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that further amendment of claims 6-9 is unnecessary. Claims 6-9 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection to these claims is requested.

5. Claim 10 depends from claim 1 and thus, is patentably distinguished from JP ‘300 for the same reasons as claim 1 and in view of the additional features recited in claim 10. JP ‘300 discloses a substrate (dish or beads) coated with a glycoconjugate polymer. However, JP ‘300 neither discloses nor suggests steps (1) and (2) of Claim 1. That is to say, the step of causing a sample to interact with lectins under conditions in which the cells are rendered inactive and the step of incubating the sample with the substrate under the same conditions, are not disclosed in

JP '300. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 should be in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments, taken in conjunction with the preceding remarks, place all claims of this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance for this application is respectfully solicited.

Date: *March 24, 2004*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Serbinowski", written in a cursive style.

Paul A. Serbinowski

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